

COMIC SHOP NEWS



GARTH ENNIS' RED TEAM

Cops Cross the Crime Line at Dynamite

Dynamite Entertainment has ventured into a variety of genres as a comics publisher—science fiction, fantasy, superheroes, horror, humor, pulp adventure, sword and sorcery, Westerns, war stories—but until now, they've walked the straight and narrow. That changes in early 2013, though, when Garth Ennis leads them across the Crime Line with a new series, *Garth Ennis' Red Team*—the first book in a planned line of crime series.

Garth Ennis explained the premise of the new series. "Red Team is made up of four highly motivated and intelligent NYPD plain clothes officers: Eddie Mellinger, Trudy Giroux, Duke Wylie and George Winburn. They primarily handle narcotics, but also—naturally—homicides and gangs. They operate through surveillance, mostly, amassing evidence and building cases. They cut a few minor corners, but nothing that rebounds on them and nothing they can't justify as being all in a good cause.

"Trouble is, people as smart as these four will eventually draw their own conclusions about how the job might best be done—especially when they're faced with one frustration too many. That's what leads them down a rather drastic path, and that's when things start going badly wrong—or, depending on your point of view, badly right.

"The four members of the NYPD's elite strike unit Red Team decide to murder a suspect. And the worst possible thing that could happen... happens."



"Garth has built his fan base and reputation on holding nothing back," Dynamite Editor Joe Rybandt said. "Red Team continues that tradition, and tells an open and accessible story for old fans and new."

Some might classify Ennis' *Jennifer Blood* (also published by Dynamite) as a crime series, but Ennis points out that there's a big difference in the two. "Red Team is much more of a straight crime story," Ennis said. "This is about as far from *Jennifer Blood* as it gets—if anything it's really a lot closer to the darker end of my *Punisher MAX* run."

Crime comics have achieved mixed success; some books, like *Criminal* and *Thief of Thieves*, seem to have found a strong audience, but many other crime projects (including Vertigo's line of crime graphic novels) have met with more limited success. What makes this the right time for you to debut a crime series? "That's the kind of thing I never think about," Ennis said. "I just do the story and hope for the best. Which is the only possible attitude in an industry dominated by superheroes; the success rate for all other genres combined must be about 5%!"

"Regarding Vertigo, I do think their crime line was too little, too late. They should have gotten a crime imprint off the ground years ago; it's such a natural place for mature readers comics to go— but they were too focused on gothic fantasy... That said, Vertigo did produce two of the greatest crime comics of all time—*Scalped* and *100 Bullets*—but they should have been used as a foundation for a line of books."

What convinced Dynamite publisher Nick Barrucci that the time was right for a crime line? "I think the time is *always* right for a crime line," Barrucci said. "There is definitely something in

the air more so today than there has been in a while. Books like *Criminal* are doing so well, because it's a high quality book by fantastic creators like Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips.

"Ultimately, it's all about having the right approach, the right script, the right writer, and the right artist—and we believe that's what we have. Starting with Garth Ennis and with Andy Diggle in succession guarantees a great launch for Dynamite's crime line."

How many other titles does Barrucci foresee as a part of the line, and when will they premiere? "I would say that we're going to slowly roll out the line," Barrucci said, "and we will have more titles in addition to Garth's and Andy's, but we're not ready to announce those yet—if for no other reason than that they are a little further down the road and we would like to keep the focus on Garth's and Andy's books right now.

"A year down the road, how many books will comprise the line? As many titles as the industry will support—that's what we'll be releasing."

Will the crime line consist of miniseries, ongoing series, or a combination of the two? "It's a combination of the two," Barrucci said. "Garth's is initially planned as a seven-issue series; whether it continues beyond that will be up to Garth. Andy's is ongoing—and Andy's such a fantastic writer that I can see this series going for years!"

Red Team is illustrated by Craig Cermak. "It's such a huge honor to work with someone as high caliber as Garth Ennis on a brand new series," Cermak said. "Dark and moody are what I think some of my strong points are artistically, and that is what this series has. Interesting characters, a great premise, and hard situations. This world is such a treat to draw, and I'm pushing to really deliver the quality it deserves."

Andy Diggle's crime series, which will follow in the spring of 2013, is "dark, hard-hitting noir... with a twist. What that twist is, I'd like to tease a little longer. But it's cool, and it opens up all kinds of dramatic possibilities. I'm planning a six-issue arc to start with, but I'd love to do more if the readers embrace it.

"I'd like to keep this fairly self-contained. One of the things that appeals to me about the project is the opportunity to create a self-contained world, one that doesn't require crossovers and ongoing continuity with other books. Shared universes like Marvel and DC are a lot of fun, but with this I'm enjoying playing in my own sandbox."

While Diggle acknowledges that his series will have noir overtones, he stresses that "there's a lot more to crime than just noir. What I'm doing here incorporates some of the conventions of noir—the cynical worldview, the anti-hero, powers ranged



against him in an urban maze. But anyone who's familiar with my work knows I also love a good heist caper, and there'll be elements of that in here too. Plus some slightly more fantastical elements from outside the crime genre altogether—just enough to spice things up without overpowering the mix. It's a pretty cool combination."

Diggle is convinced that the time is perfect for a crime line launch.

"Crime comics are on a roll right now. The crime genre is hugely popular in other media, so why not comics too?

I'm a great believer in writing comics for the man and woman on the street.

And I include myself in that! I'm trying to write the kind of comics I want to read myself."

Garth Ennis' Red Team #1, a \$3.99 comic by Ennis & Craig Cermak, is scheduled for February release. The first issue will ship with covers by Howard Chaykin and Ryan Sook in a 50:50 ratio. Additionally, Dynamite is offering their first ever "subscription variant" cover, available for comic shops' pull list customers; this variant will feature cover art by Russ Braun.

by Cliff Biggers

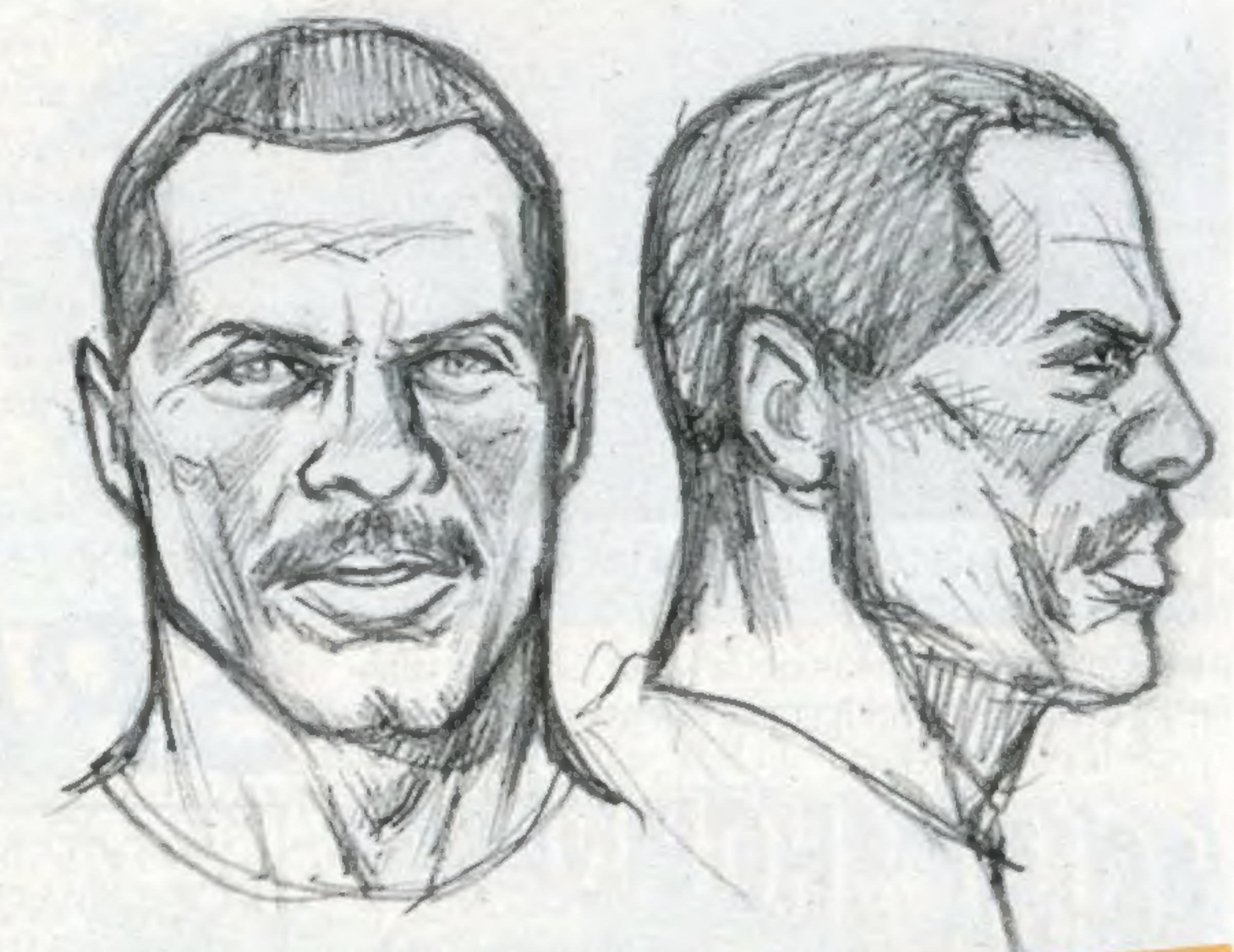
Meet the Red Team

(character designs by Craig Cermak, descriptions by Garth Ennis)

Eddie Mellinger - "An NYPD detective aged about 30, something in the manner of Ethan Hawke. Wiry, but not ripped. Cyclones t-shirt, no tattoos, short curly dark hair. Single earring, wedding ring. Unshaven but not sloppy."

Trudy Giroux - "About Eddie's age, quite a looker, shock of black hair and black vest top. Tall and lanky, but not the bulimic model look. Obviously works out but, like Eddie, hasn't overdone it."

Duke Wylie and George Winburn "Duke is about 6'2" and built like a brick wall, about 45, black hair going grey. Moustache and goatee, also graying. Couple of small tattoos, long-faded. Swarthy look about him. Old scar running along his jawline. Hair kept short. George could be Duke's twin, except that he's black and lacks the tats and scar, and has a moustache rather than the goatee. Apart from that they're the same breed of old-school, hard-as-nails tough guy, with the same keen intelligence obvious in their eyes."



Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

DC's Delivering Justice Times 52 in February

In late summer, DC told us about their plans to bring back *Justice League of America*—and even better, they revealed that the book would be produced by the all-star creative team of Geoff Johns (who's also writing the best-selling *Justice League*) and artist David Finch. But now, we know even more—including when you can expect to find the first issue in comic shops!

DC has confirmed that *Justice League of America* will launch in February 2013—and it's going to launch *big*! Picking up on the word "America" in the title, DC is offering the book with 52 variant covers featuring the flags of all fifty US states as well as Washington DC and Puerto Rico.

"If the *Justice League* is about the world's greatest super heroes," writer and DC CCO Geoff Johns told mtvgeek.com, "the *Justice League of America* is about the world's most dangerous — and that's because they're underrated, unpredictable and, before this, unwanted. *Justice League of America* is the backbone of the New 52 in 2013 alongside *Justice League*, repositioning some characters like Green Arrow — who there are big plans for — Hawkman, Catwoman, and Katana..."

And it turns out that *Justice League of America* isn't the only book in DC's New 52 Justice League family launching in February. DC will also unveil *Katana* #1, written by Ann Nocenti and illustrated by Alex Sanchez; and *Justice League of America's Vibe* #1, courtesy of Andrew Kreisberg & Pete Woods.



"Katana walks a tightrope of contradictions," Nocenti told mtvgeek.com. "She is a trained assassin, and yet she is not a killer. She is a master swordsman who has left the team Birds of

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by Comic Shop News
in cooperation with newsarama.com

Prey to walk the path of a true outsider. She feels destined to conquer the secret powers of her Soultaker Sword... It is one thing to wield the Soultaker, it is yet another to be worthy of it, and be able to control it. Does Katana's Soultaker sword really contain the souls of those she kills? Is this a sign of the sword's great power, or of her madness? Is the endless bloodshed changing Katana? Is she worthy of her own sword? Will she ever master it?"

As for Kreisberg and his plans for *Vibe*, he said, "I promise no break dancing. I promise this book will be fun and epic while also emotional and heartfelt. I promise Para-demons and Gypsy and a few big surprises. And I promise to make Vibe cool."



DC also announced a creative shift for *Green Arrow*, with Jeff Lemire & Andrea Sorrentino taking over the title beginning with February's *Green Arrow* #17.

"Green Arrow is a character who always has the potential to be a major player in the DCU," Lemire told mtvgeek.com. "I wanted to make Green Arrow a hunter again. A street level hero of the gutters caught up in a world of violence, betrayal, and conspiracy... My ever-



growing plans for the book will build a huge new mythology around Green Arrow's legacy and send him across the globe, all the while trying to stay one step ahead of a deadly new cast of villains with mysterious ties to his past."

Constantine Comments

A quarter century after his debut in the pages of *Swamp Thing*, John Constantine is heading back home.

Before the Vertigo imprint ever existed, Constantine made his first appearance in the pages of Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing* #37 in 1985. Many readers forget that, at that time, *Swamp Thing* was still a title ostensibly taking place in the DC Universe (several members of the Justice League even make an appearance in one of Alan Moore's early issues). Almost three years later, Constantine earned his own series, *Hellblazer*—which was also a DC series. It wasn't until 1993 that Vertigo launched and *Hellblazer* became one of many DC characters making the move to the new imprint.

With the launch of the New 52, several of those heroes (including Swamp Thing and Animal Man) became a part

of the DC Universe... but Constantine remained an anomaly, appearing both in *Justice League Dark* (a New 52 title) and *Hellblazer* (a Vertigo title). The Vertigo character seemed a little bit older, more cynical, and a bit more bedraggled than his New 52 counterpart, but the characters remained very similar.

In early 2013, though, the dual (or should we say "dual-ing"?) Constantines come to an end as *Hellblazer* wraps up its lengthy run with #300, and the only Constantine left will be the New 52 hero. But that doesn't mean that fans of the character will only see him as part of *Justice League Dark's* ensemble cast: the end of the Vertigo series will be closely followed by the launch of the New 52 series *Constantine* by Robert Venditti & Renato Guedes.

Venditti, bestselling author of *The Homeland Directive* and *The Surrogates*, has experience with relaunched characters, having written Valiant's launch title *X-O Manowar* since its first issue. *Constantine* will be his first ongoing work for DC.

"Few characters in comics are as complex and entertaining as John Constantine, and I'm finding him to be every bit as enjoyable to write as he is to read," Venditti said. "It's my goal to have the new *Constantine* series be equal parts familiarity and surprise. This will be the Constantine we all know and love, but facing new and unexpected challenges from both inside and out."

In an Associated Press story, Venditti went on to say that "he's going to be the same age that he is in *Justice League Dark* and the same character that people know and recognize — the drinking and smoking, the con man aspect of him — that's going to be very much part of the series."

"I like the idea of him being so layered. There's always machinations going on underneath with Constantine, and that's what makes him such an enjoyable character to read and write.. He is devious, he is underhanded and he's a very big-picture oriented guy. When you're dealing with things like demons running loose on earth, you need to be that way."

Venditti went on to explain that his role as writer of *X-O Manowar* and *Constantine* is similar. "While I'm aware of all the rich history, I can't look at it from 'How am I going to compete with that?' I am going to come to the book and tell the best stories that I can."

Before *Constantine* launches as a solo New 52 series, however, Vertigo will say farewell to their most long-running character in

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER



COMIC SHOP NEWS

Published weekly
since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2012 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS

Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office

2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066

cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office

3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215

Atlanta, GA 30341

(770) 939-1364

wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com

twitter.com/csnsider

Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauceville, QC, Canada

Comic Shop News

February's *Hellblazer* #300. "John Constantine has escaped, cheated, narrowly avoided and even reversed death on multiple occasions," DC said in announcing the change. "Now, in the conclusion of 'Death and Cigarettes,' long-time writer *Peter Milligan* and artists *Giuseppe Camuncoli* and *Stefano Landini* will test whether he's got one more second chance in him, giving him the bloody best sendoff he deserves."

"We're supremely proud of *Vertigo's Hellblazer*, one of the most critically-acclaimed series we've published," DC Entertainment Co-Publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "Issue #300 concludes this chapter of Constantine's epic, smoke-filled story in style and with the energy, talent and creativity fans have come to expect..."

NOW's the Time for Fearless Defenders

February sees the Marvel NOW release of *Fearless Defenders* #1, a series by *Cullen Bunn* & *Will Sliney* featuring the first-ever all-female team of Defenders. *Valkyrie* and *Misty Knight* are at the center of the team, according to writer *Cullen Bunn*, along with *Dani Moonstar*— but they'll be joined by several other Defenders. *Valkyrie*, trying to make amends for her mistakes that put their entire world in jeopardy, is tasked with choosing a group of heroic women to fight by her side. While she and her partner in crimefighting *Misty Knight* have different backgrounds, different points of view, and different approaches, they will both find their definitions of hero and honor put to the test by the women they lead and the challenges they face.

"The Defenders has always been defined by a team roster that's as unusual as the threats it faces, and we're about to take it up several notches," said *Axel Alonso*, Editor In Chief, Marvel Entertainment. "Whether, your problem is nasty Ninjas, murderous trolls or shambling zombies, there's no one better suited to defend you than this all-new, all-female team."

"*Fearless Defenders* will chronicle the adventures of the female heroes of the Marvel Universe. There will be a central team of characters that will form over time, but the cast will rotate to some degree from arc to arc. This will be a team like none other in Marvel NOW," writer *Cullen Bunn* said. "I think readers will have a good time speculating on who will be joining this version of the Defenders. The team up of *Valkyrie* and *Misty Knight* is probably unexpected for most people, and that's just one of the surprises I have in store. This will be an offbeat team, and they'll be facing some bewildering threats."

While writer *Cullen Bunn* didn't want to identify the full membership, he told comicbookresources.com, "As we build the team, you'll see some of the more well-known characters, but I don't want it to be a team of characters who are all on six other books, either. I think some team members will be definite surprises, if not all of the team. There will be some new characters joining the team, who no one has seen before."

"That said, this will also be a book that gives us a great opportunity to showcase the women of the Marvel Universe. You'll be seeing a lot of characters in the book who may not necessarily be in the core team, but will have the opportunity to guest-star and rotate into the book."

CSNsider

•IDW takes readers back to WW II in the new miniseries *Fever Ridge*, an eight-parter inspired by real soldiers and their experiences. Writer *Mike Heimos* focuses on Douglas MacArthur's campaigns in the jungles of New Guinea and the Philippines, following *Comic Shop News*

"The Sightseer' Sixth" and the Alamo Scouts, their jungle commandos. "I am thrilled to be teaming up with IDW to tell this story of 'The Sightseers,'" *Heimos* said. "It is one that involves subject matter that has received too little attention in general; almost none in historical fiction and I don't think any in graphic novels/comics" he continued.

Fever Ridge is illustrated by *Nick Runge*, who said that "the war is only one of the many faces that shape this tale of survival and suspense in the dark corners of New Guinea. Our main characters face not only the horror of combat and secrets of the jungle, but the question of how these events will effect the path of their lives when they return home.... if they do. This is a new take on World War II in the Pacific, and I'm truly honored to have a fantastic company like IDW publishing this series. It's a perfect fit!"

Fever Ridge #1 is slated for February release.



•*Red Hood & the Outlaws'* Arsenal gets his chance to star in *DC Universe Presents* #17, a standalone tale by *Joe Keatinge* & *Ricken* that also guest-stars *Red Hood* and *Starfire*. *Roy Harper* is all too familiar with the road to hell being paved with good intentions, so he's not totally surprised when an attempt to help *Killer Croc* leaves him running for his life on the streets of Japan.



•*Paul Levitz* & *Keith Giffen*, the creative team responsible for the epic *Great Darkness Saga* story arc, reunites beginning with *Legion of Super-Heroes* #17 in February. "Working with Keith is as exciting as reading his work," *Levitz* said. "We'll be back to changing the technology of the future, the lives (and deaths) of Legionnaires, and connecting to



wonderfully obscure pieces of DC mythology. Buckle up...it's a wild ride!"

•*The Flash* #17 reintroduces one of the Flash's most popular (or should we say "notorious"?) adversaries, *Reverse-Flash*. "This Reverse-Flash is going to be a complete re-imagining of him in the same way that we kind of tinkered with what the Speed Force is," series co-writer and artist *Francis Manapul* told comicbookresources.com. "We're going to be explaining what the opposite side of that is. He's the Yin to [Barry's] Yang."

"We've stat-



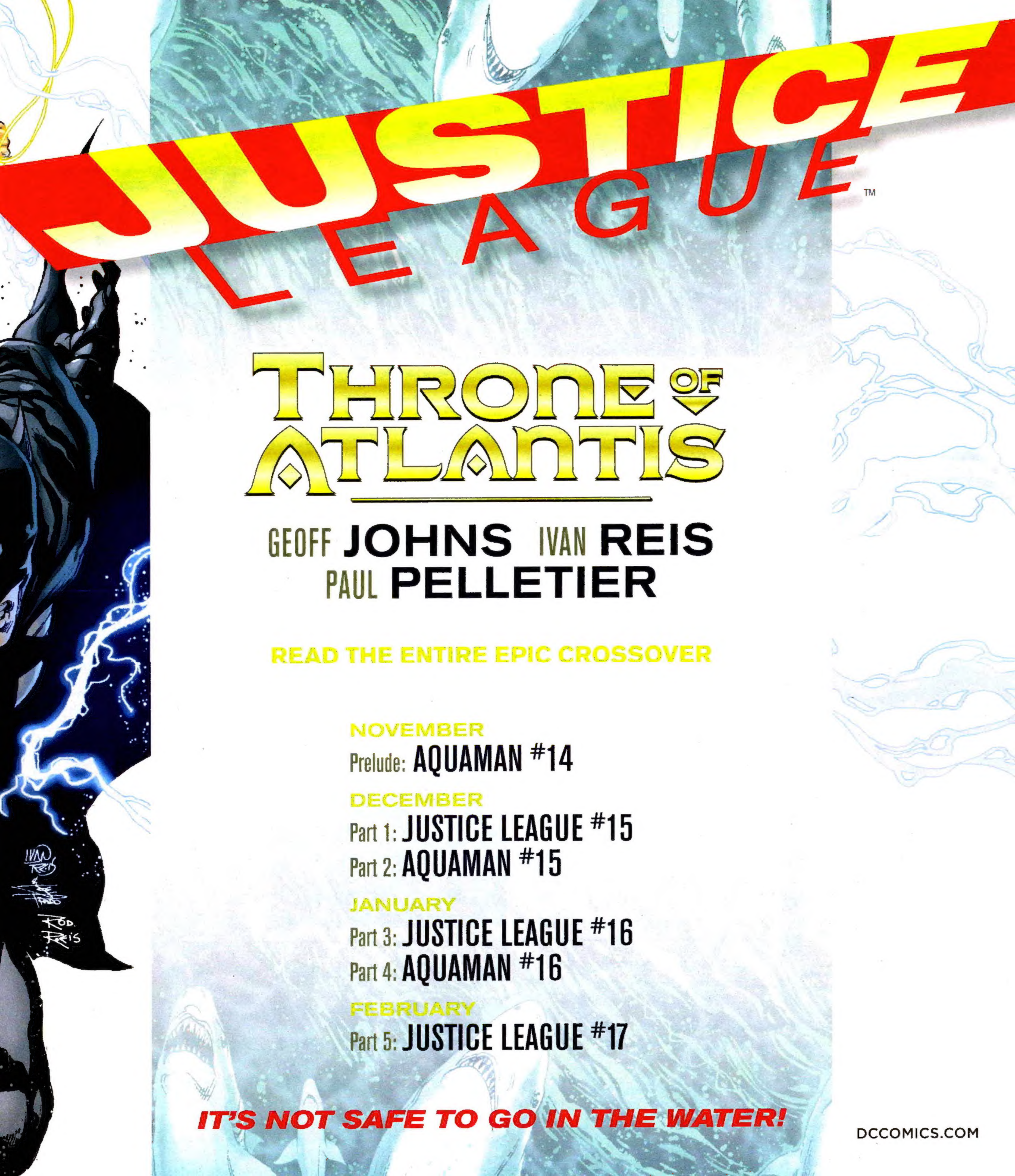


TM and © 2012 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.



DC COMICS™

THE NEW 52!



JUSTICE LEAGUE

THRONE OF ATLANTIS

GEOFF JOHNS IVAN REIS
PAUL PELLETIER

READ THE ENTIRE EPIC CROSSOVER

NOVEMBER

Prelude: AQUAMAN #14

DECEMBER

Part 1: JUSTICE LEAGUE #15

Part 2: AQUAMAN #15

JANUARY

Part 3: JUSTICE LEAGUE #16

Part 4: AQUAMAN #16

FEBRUARY

Part 5: JUSTICE LEAGUE #17

IT'S NOT SAFE TO GO IN THE WATER!

DCCOMICS.COM

ed what Flash's mission is and why he runs," co-writer *Brian Buccellato* added. "Reverse-Flash is going to flip that on its ear. For astute people that have been following our book, they can already get an idea of what Reverse-Flash's mission is going to be."

Back to Press

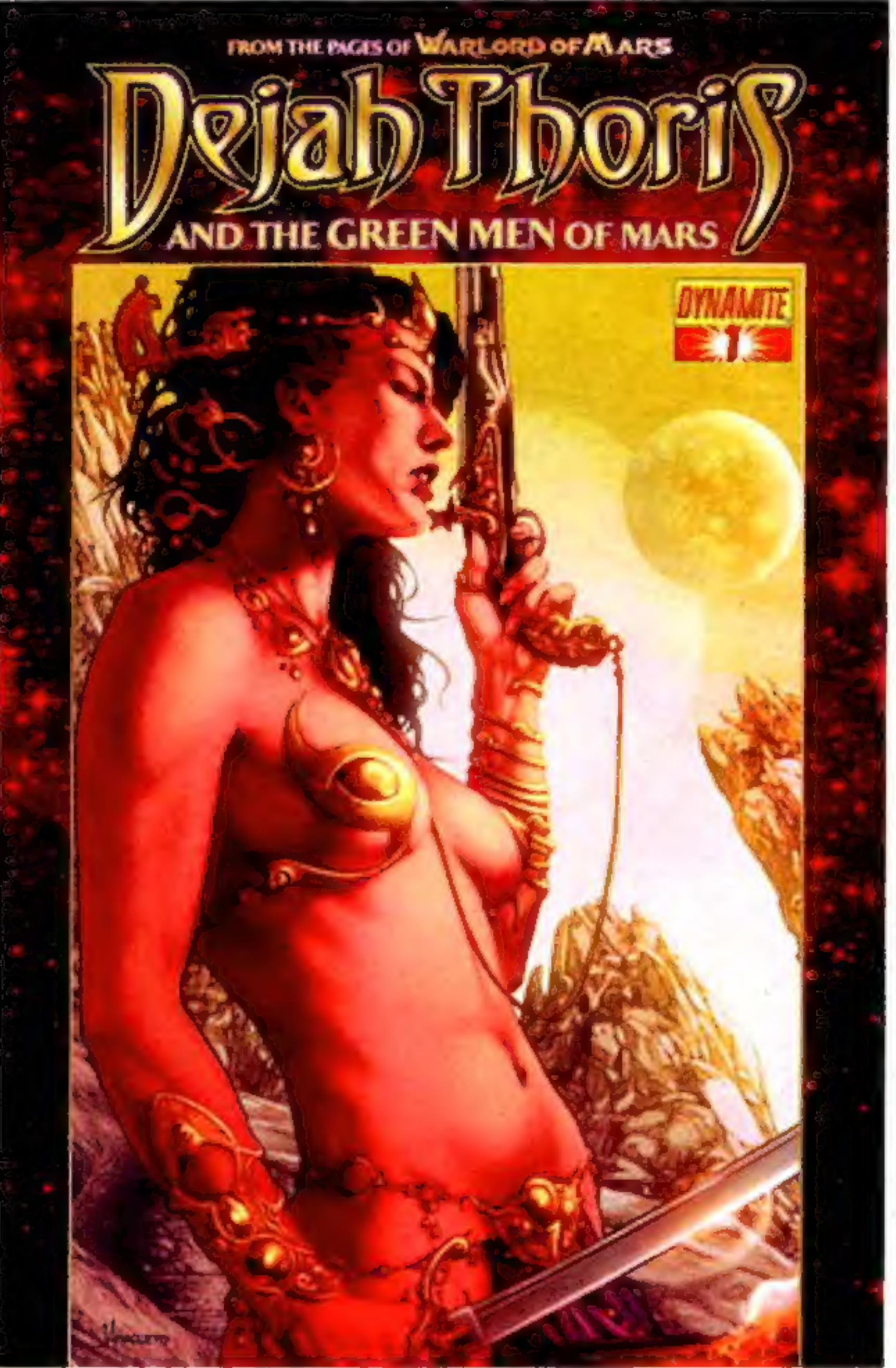
- *AVX: Consequences #5 2nd Printing* (SEP128325), featuring a variant cover by *Patrick Zircher*, in stores 12/5.
- *Bravest Warriors #1 3rd Printing* (SEP128334), in stores 12/19.
- *Great Pacific #1 2nd Printing* (SEP128309), in stores 12/5.
- *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic #1 2nd Printing* (OCT128002), in stores 12/19.

Coming Comics—Dynamite in February

With Steve Austin missing and feared dead, Oscar Goldman coerces Jamie Sommers back into the OSI to track him down in *The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman #2* by *Keith Champagne & Jose Luis*. Each step Jamie takes brings her closer to the serial killer known as Trench-- and a bionic showdown that will shake the pillars of Heaven.

Matt Cochran & Dean Ruben Hyrapiet chronicle the tale of a young Native American tasked with saving his village from destruction by an evil curse in *Bloodtrail*, a standalone graphic novel.

As Rapa, Red, Talia and Heinrich journey through the Enchanted Forest toward Villeneuve, Rapa's memories begin to return in *Leah Moore & John Reppion's Damsels #6*. The royal cavalcade is ambushed on the road to the kingdom, forcing Queens Talia and Rapunzel to fight for their lives. Meanwhile Queen Belle, plagued by her conscience begins to wonder if she might be cursed.



In *Dejah Thoris & the Green Men of Mars #1* by *Mark Rahner & Lui Antonio*, the princess of Helium is kidnapped and taken to the underground cave hideaway of the brutal rogue Thark, Voro, a butcher in the literal sense. For Tharks who never lost their taste for red meat, common Helium women are always in demand, but the incomparable Dejah Thoris will be the rarest of delicacies...

The heroine of *The Night Witches* and Motherland flies straight into trouble as her aircraft is shot down behind German lines in *Garth Ennis' Battlefields #4: The Rise and Fall of Anna Kharkova Part 1*, featuring art by *Russ Braun*. Anna faces her worst nightmare as a



prisoner of the Nazis, and events are set in motion that will see her made an outcast amongst her own people. The third and last installment of the *Night Witches'* story begins here.

Garth Ennis kicks off Dynamite's new crime line with *Garth Ennis' Red Team #1*, illustrated by *Craig Cermak*. Eddie Mellinger, Trudy Giroux, Duke Wylie and George Winburn are Red Team—the NYPD's elite anti-narcotics unit. They've taken down one drug lord after another with a careful blend of meticulous surveillance and applied violence, but their latest case has even them stumped. Their frustration leads them to take extreme measures—setting them on a path from which there can be no coming back...

Hired by a small-town deputy sheriff to look into a series of bizarre deaths, Harry Dresden has nevertheless found some very familiar obstacles -- hostile law enforcement officials, reluctant civilians, people protecting secrets, and supernatural threats. Watch him take 'em all on in *Jim Butcher's Dresden Files: Ghoul Goblin #2* by *Jim Butcher, Mark Powers, & Joseph Cooper*.

Ande Parks & Esteve Pols continue a series of stand-alone, single issue tales in *The Lone Ranger Volume 2 #14*. Blood, dust and vengeance in the Wild West. The Lone Ranger and Tonto join a posse on the trail of a cold-blooded killer. What they find at the end of the chase is a ghost from Tonto's own past... a man Tonto had a chance to kill, but left alive at the cost of countless others.

In *Lord of the Jungle #14*, *Arvid Nelson & Roberto Castro* present final showdown between everyone's favorite ape-man and his arch-nemesis, Russian super-spy Nicholas Rokoff. For their arena, the two men have the ruins of Opar, the lost city of gold in the heart of Africa.

With the law twisted and perverted to benefit the unjust, those who serve justice have no choice but to operate outside the law in *Masks #4* by *Chris Roberson & Dennis Calero*. The Spider digs into the shadowy past of the new governor, but what he finds raises more questions than it answers. Back in New York City, the Shadow and Green Hornet are marshaling their forces, as vigilantes and heroes like the Green Lama, Miss Fury, and the Black Terror join their cause. Meanwhile, a blind lawyer and a fugitive artist find themselves standing alone against the might of the Black Legions.

Red Sonja: Unchained #1 by *Peter V. Brett & Jack Jadson* picks up where Brett's *Red Sonja: Blue* one-shot left off, with Sonja fleeing the scene of a murder after killing a young man who tried to test her vow.

Matt Wagner explores the beginnings of pulpdom's most famous hero in *The Shadow: Year One #1*, illustrated by *Wilfredo Torres*. Shrouded in mystery, his origins have been explored and hinted at over the years...but never fully revealed. Much is known of Kent Allard/Lamont Cranston's years spent in the Orient and Central America—wherein he gains his powers and purpose...but not how he first developed his persona as the Master of Darkness. This series explores the dynamic events that first drew Cranston back to the States, how he first met his companion and lover, Margo Lane, how he began to assemble his vast network of agents and how he first adopted the famous black hat and cloak as his alter-ego's disguise—all secrets that, up until now...only The Shadow knew! Dynamite is offering a number of original art incentives for this book; if you're interested in owning a one-of-a-kind hand-drawn cover, talk to the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop as soon as possible!



To understand the ways of the fallen angels, Vampirella must seek out the assistance of a former soldier in the legion of Heaven in *Vampirella Strikes #2* by *Tom Sniegowski & Johnny D*. But someone would rather the pair never meet...



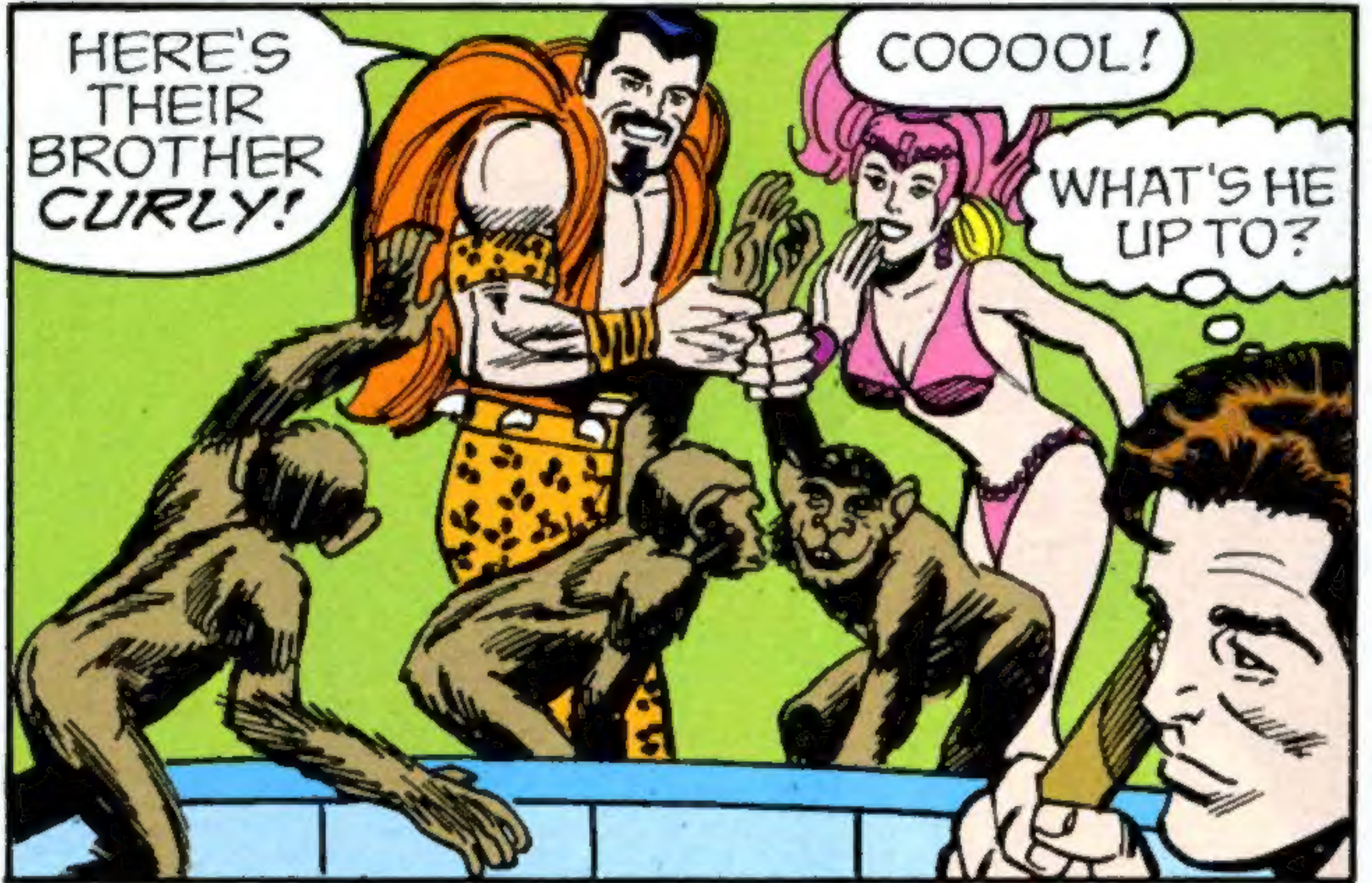
- Dynamite collected volumes include:
- *Jim Butcher's The Dresden Files: Fool Moon Volume 2 HC*, collecting *The Dresden Files: Fool Moon* #s 5-8.
 - *Queen Sonja Volume 5—Ascendancy TP*, collecting *Red Sonja* #s 21-25.
 - *Warlord of Mars: Dejah Thoris Volume 3—The Boora Witch TP*, collecting *Warlord of Mars—Dejah Thoris* #s 11-17.

Uncanny News from Chris Bachalo

Artist *Chris Bachalo* has confirmed on his blog that the *Uncanny* book that he and *Brian Bendis* are launching in February 2013 will indeed be *Uncanny X-Men*. "This was a tough one, as I was really enjoying my time on *Wolverine & the X-Men*, but Brian asked for me to help him launch the new *Uncanny*—and how do you turn down that offer?"

"Launches are tough, as there's a lot of ground to cover to get things rolling. Characters are re-imagined, writing styles adjusted to, locations established. It's a tough learning curve that typically takes a few issues to figure out and grow comfortable with.

"We're still very early into the creative part so hard for me to comment on exactly what to expect. The daring part is that the tone of the book—feels like, it's early—will be a little darker. Characters' powers have been 'adjusted' as a result of the Phoenix Five fallout, and I was asked to redesign costumes for the entire cast. Everyone.



"Plus, as of today, there are two 'new' mutants. Its a big jump that I'm sure will turn a few off but, we're betting that most will welcome and enjoy. One thing that you can count on is that Brian will *always* give you something worth reading. He never fails to be interesting..."

Look for the series to launch with two issues in February before settling into a monthly schedule.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in February

Angel, Faith, and the remaining Slayers prep themselves to overtake a group of living zombies in *Angel & Faith #19* by Christos Gage & Rebekah Isaacs.

In *Baltimore: The Widow & the Tank*, Mike Mignola & Christopher Golden present a horrific double feature about a widow with a not-quite-dead husband and a child-killing vampire taking refuge from something even worse.

The remnants of magic left on earth are in danger in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #18* by Andrew Chambliss, Georges Jeanty, & Dexter Vines. The Siphon is back, and he's more charged than ever before as he takes out one magical being after another, absorbing their power.

Gilbert Hernandez Jamie Rich, J. Torres, Dan Braun, Peter Bagge, Joelle Jones, & Amy Reeder present new tales of horror in *Creepy Comics #11*.

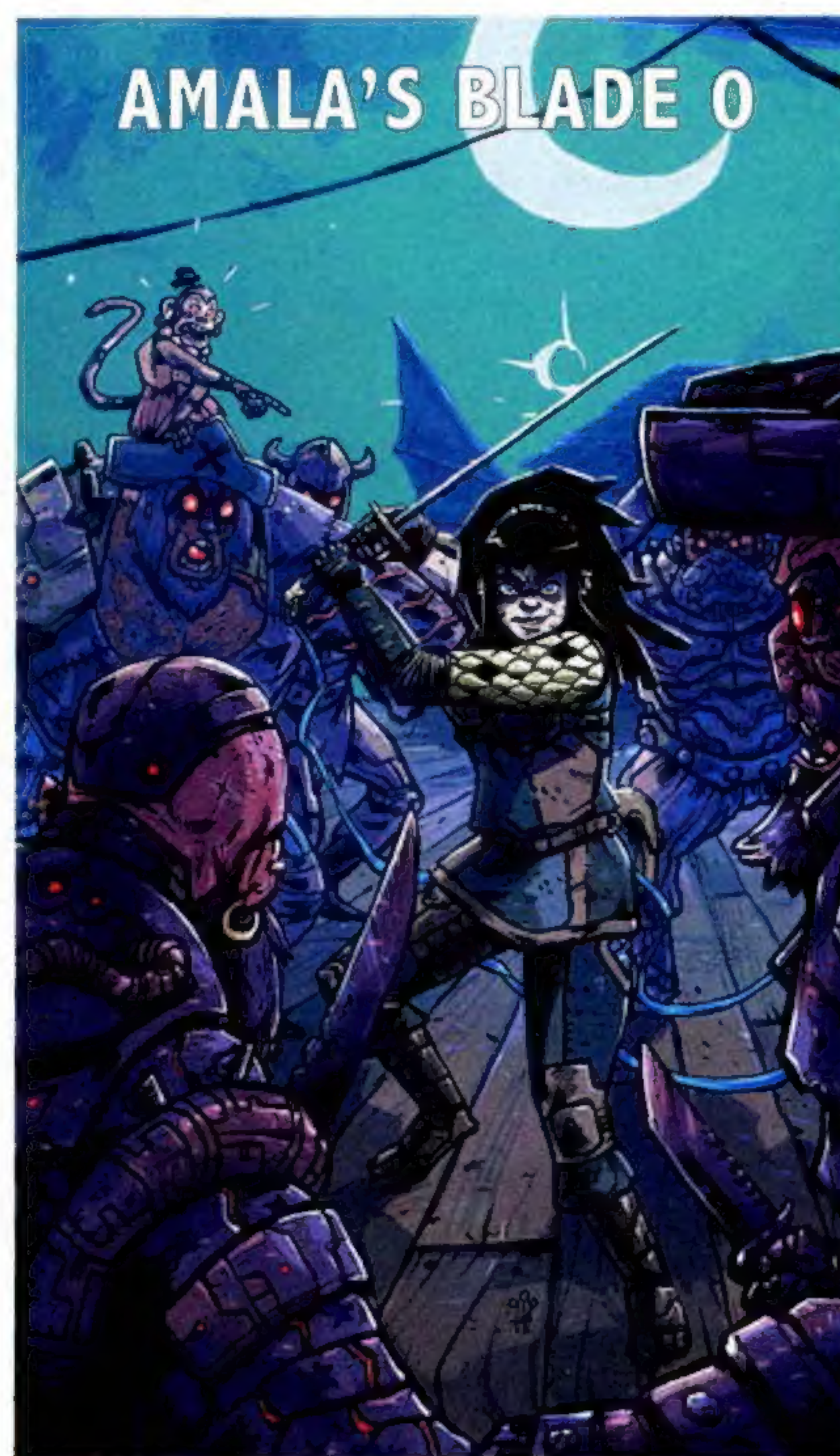
Dragon Age: The World of Thedas Volume 1 HC brings eager readers up to speed on everything there is to know about the regions, religions, monsters, magic, and more!

A cagey young Imperial officer seems to anticipate the Rebels' every move, so Princess Leia forms a "stealth squadron"—including Luke Skywalker—to expose a suspected spy within their ranks in *Star Wars #2* by Brian Wood & Carlos D'Anda, with cover art by Alex Ross. Meanwhile, Han Solo and Chewbacca run afoul of bounty hunter Boba Fett, and the Emperor sends Darth Vader on a secret mission!

on an Imperial-run planet, hiding in the refugee camp, among other beings who were displaced by the Clone Wars. But K'Kruhk senses there is something wrong!



Jedi Master K'Kruhk is on the run with a group of young Padawans in *Star Wars: Dark Times—Fire Carrier #1* by Randy Stradley & Gabriel Guzman. In a galaxy suddenly hunting Jedi, they are forced to land

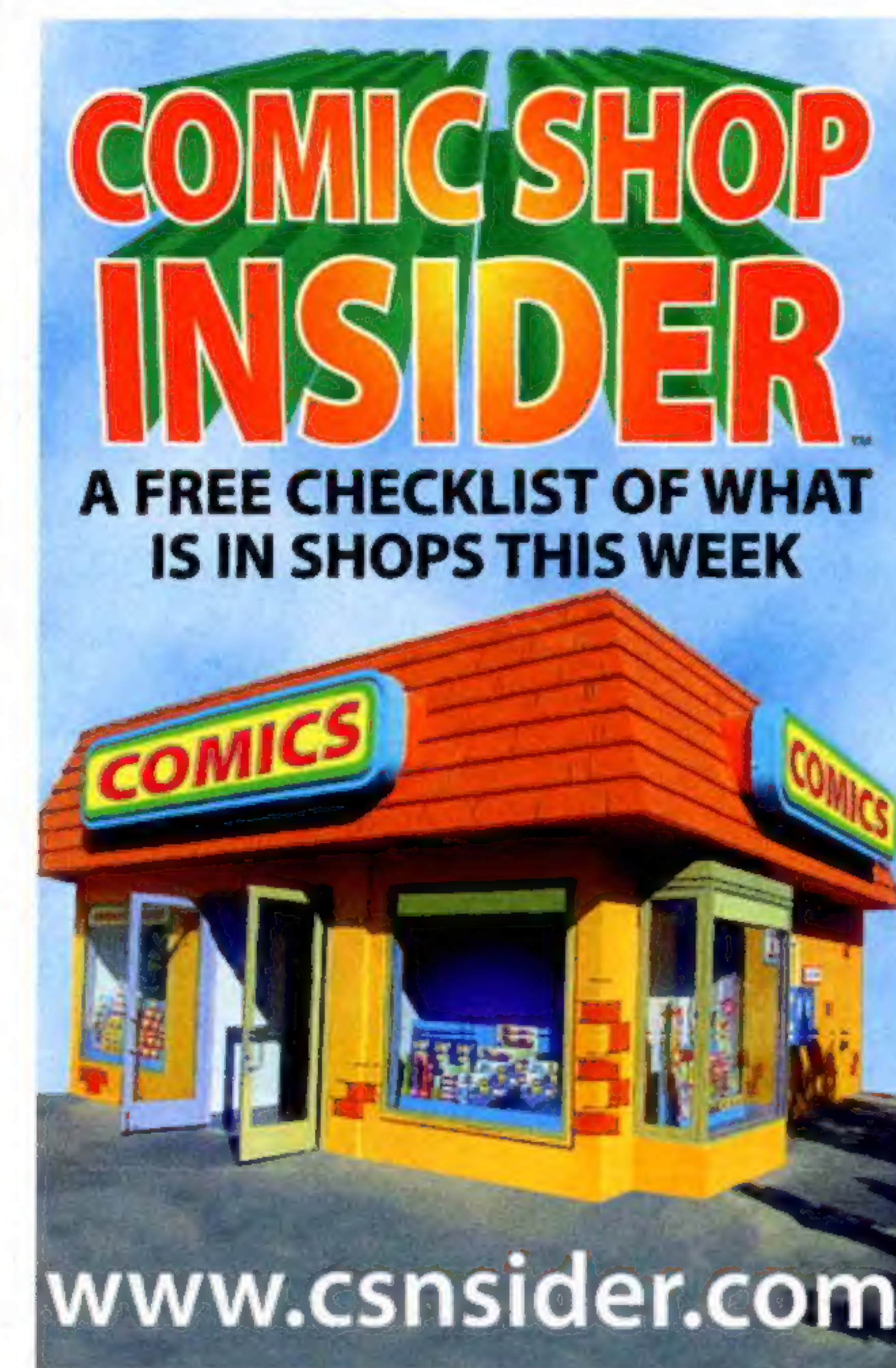


Dark Horse collected volumes, advance solicited for March and April release, include:

- *Aliens: Inhuman Condition* HC, collecting John Layman & Sam Kieth's serial from *Dark Horse Presents* #s 12-17.
- *Amala's Blade #0*, collecting Steve Horton & Michael Diallynas's pirate tale from *Dark Horse Presents* that serves as a lead-in to the series launching in April.
- *Angel & Faith Volume 3: Family Reunion* TP, collecting *Angel & Faith* #s 11-15.

- *The Creep* HC, collecting *The Creep* #s 0-4.
- *Criminal Macabre: The Cal MacDonald Casebook Volume 1* HC, collecting *Criminal Macabre* #s 1-5, *Last Train to Deadsville* #s 1-4, *Supernatural Freak Machine* #s 1-5, and much more.
- *Fear Agent Library Edition Volume 2* HC, collecting Rick Remender & Tony Moore's *Fear Agent* #s 17-32.
- *Mind MGMT Volume 1* HC, collecting Matt Kindt's *Mind MGMT* #s 1-6.
- *The Savage Sword of Conan Volume 13* TP, collecting *Savage Sword of Conan the Barbarian* #s 131-140.
- *Star Wars: Knight Errant Volume 3—Escape* TP, collecting the five-issue miniseries.

twitter.com/csnsider



DARK HORSE PRESENTS 21

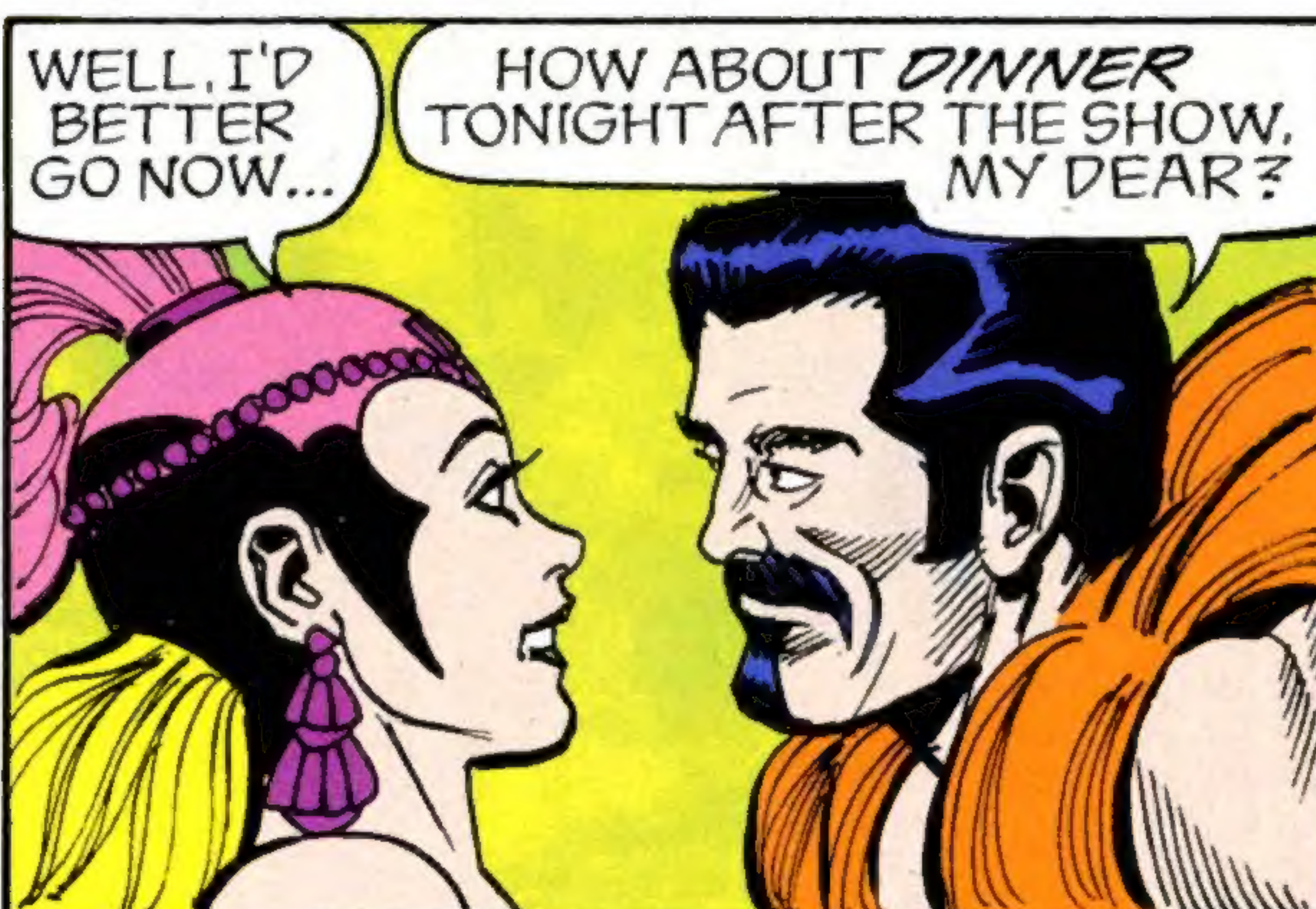


Neil Gaiman & Paul Chadwick present the original tale "The Day the Saucers Came" in *Dark Horse Presents #21*, which also includes new material by Shannon Wheeler, Caitlin Kiernan, Michael Avon Oeming, and others.

Hellboy meets more of his family members in Mike Mignola's *Hellboy in Hell #3*—and it's most definitely *not* a fond reunion...

In ancient Japan, a witch named Hannya seeks to use the warrior-monk Ningen's enlightened body and spirit to resurrect the demon-samurai Atsumori and unleash an era of chaos in *Ningen's Nightmares* by JP Kalonji & Dan Jackson.

Comic Shop News



Follow Spider-Man every week in Comic Shop News!

"WOOD DELIVERS THE SAME MONUMENTAL AND YET INCREDIBLY RELATABLE STORIES HE HAS BROUGHT THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES."

—COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

BRIAN WOOD NORTHLANDERS

Illustrated by

RICCARDO BURCHIELLI, LEANDRO FERNANDEZ,
DAVIDE GIANFELICE, RYAN KELLY, DEAN ORMSTON,
DANIJEL ZEZEJ
and other top talents



VOLUME 1:
SVEN THE RETURNED



VOLUME 2:
THE CROSS AND THE HAMMER



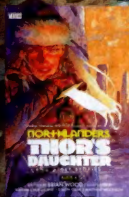
VOLUME 3:
BLOOD IN THE SNOW



VOLUME 4:
THE PLAGUE WIDOW



VOLUME 5:
METAL



VOLUME 6:
THOR'S DAUGHTER AND OTHER STORIES



VOLUME 7:
THE ICELANDIC TRILOGY

**READ THE
ENTIRE EPIC
SERIES!**

VERTIGO
vertigo.comics.com

© Brian Wood & DC Comics. TM DC Comics.